

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Carson-Young House

Marion vicinity, McDowell County, MC0120, Listed 7/28/2011

Nomination by Sybil Argintar

Photographs by Sybil Argintar, April 2010



Façade view



Rear view

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Carson-Young House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 842 Major Conley Road not for publication N/A

city or town Marion vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county McDowell code 111 zip code 28752

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination
_____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
_____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the

National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the

National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

McDowell County, North Carolina
County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Cat: Work in progress Sub: _____

Greek Revival

Other: I-house

foundation stone

roof asphalt

walls weatherboard

other _____

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Carson-Young House
Name of Property

McDowell County, North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1860

Significant Dates

ca. 1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Western Office, Archives and History

Carson-Young House
Name of Property

McDowell County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 12.72 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 404540 3951930
2 17 404780 3951930

Zone Easting Northing
3 17 404740 3951750
4 17 404800 3951700
X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sybil H. Argintar, Preservation Planner

organization Southeastern Preservation Services date April 4, 2011

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 230-3773

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Alexis Gros-Piron * see continuation sheet for additional owner

street & number 138 rue des Hutins telephone (011) 33-450-201535

city or town 01220 Divonne Les Bains, France state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Carson-Young House
McDowell County, North Carolina

Summary

The Carson-Young House is located in the vicinity of Marion, McDowell County, North Carolina, north of Highway 70, at the north terminus of Major Conley Road (SR 1432), and approximately three miles from the center of town. The house, along with a contemporary school house and barn, sits within a rural setting of approximately twelve acres, surrounded by woods, which wrap the property on the north, east, and west sides. The topography is gently rolling, with the house sited on a slight knoll above the road, level in topography with the school house, located to the northwest of the house; the barn is located across a small ravine and up a hill to the northeast of the house. To the south of the property is an open field still in agricultural use. The house faces southwest, with an overgrown entry walk lined with boxwoods, which leads to the front of the house, and a circular drive beginning at the end of Major Conley Road and extending around the house to the rear. A grass-covered driveway, which extends to the northeast, terminates just east of the barn.

Carson-Young House. Contributing Building. ca. 1860; addition ca. 1951.

The Carson-Young House is a Greek Revival-influenced I-house form with a central two-story gabled porch and a ca. 1951 one-story, hip-roofed addition to the rear. The side-gable roof with flush-board soffits and wide, flat fascia boards on all elevations is covered with asphalt shingles, with a temporary standing seam metal roof patch on the west side. The house is covered with weatherboard and hand-hewn structural beams are visible within the crawl space. Windows throughout are six-over-six, nine-over-six, and nine-over-nine double-hung sash. Single-shoulder brick exterior end chimneys are located on the east and west elevations, both of which are currently parged, but with the brick visible beneath. The house sits on a foundation of granite boulders and stacked stone. The three-bay façade consists of single six-over-six windows on the first floor and nine-over-nine windows on the second floor, on either side of the four-panel first- and second-floor doors with sidelights and transoms. The sidelights on the west side of the door are angled downward, likely due to the addition of the concrete floor on the front porch which has pushed the door sill up in elevation. The two six-over-six windows on the first floor are later replacements. The central, one-bay-wide, two-story porch is capped with a full pediment roof supported on both levels by chamfered posts. There is no balustrade on the first floor, but the second-floor balustrade has turned balusters and scrollwork brackets on the chamfered posts, likely added in the late nineteenth century when Thomas Young lived in the house. The porch ceilings are flush-board. The east and west elevations are identical, with chimneys as noted above.

The rear, or north, elevation has two bays on each floor, with the central addition projecting to the north. The second floor of this elevation has nine-over-six windows, with the lower sash

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replaced. The first floor windows have been replaced: on the east, with a metal-covered, shed-roof hood supported by brackets, which shelters a six-light-over-three-panel door under a transom, and on the west, a four-panel door with multiple small lights and a covered transom.

The one-story hip-and-shed-roof rear kitchen addition was added ca. 1951. The north elevation of the addition consists of a projecting, enclosed shed-roof entry porch with six-light fixed windows flanking the vertical-three-light-over-panel door. To the east of the addition and recessed are paired nine-over-nine windows, the original rear first floor windows, which were replaced by doors as noted above. The east elevation of the addition consists of two bays, a six-over-six double-hung window and a four-panel door, and a nine-light window on the shed-roofed portion to the west. The west elevation of the addition has two bays, consisting of a row of seven lights to the north and paired nine-light windows to the south, likely an original nine-over-nine double-hung window moved from the façade and set side by side.

The interior floor plan of the house is typical of the I-house form, with a center hall flanked by two rooms down and two rooms up (see Exhibit A). The stair retains all of its original detailing including a chamfered newel post with a beveled cap, rectangular balusters, and a hand-carved rounded handrail, which continues onto the second floor balustrade. The wood treads are covered with carpet. Walls and ceilings on the first floor are covered with beaverboard on the original plaster lath, while the second-floor walls and ceilings are covered with approximately eight-inch-to-twelve-inch-wide flush boards. Floors throughout are flush-board, but are covered with carpet in the first-floor hall and east parlor (lady's parlor on the floor plan). Baseboards, with molded caps, are approximately ten inches high, and doors are four-panel. All doors and windows have molded surrounds.

Entering from the front of the house, the hall retains much of its original form and detailing, including the stairs along the east wall, but the doorway into the west parlor was widened, there are two new openings on the north wall into the kitchen and bath addition, and a new opening was made into the east parlor behind the stairs, all changes made ca. 1951.¹ There is a two-panel door into a storage space beneath the stairs, and walls all around the staircase are flush-board.

¹ Hensley, Veronica and Rabb, William, son and daughter of William Bowen Rabb and Evelyn Lois Ross Rabb. Interview with Sybil Argintar February 28, 2011. This branch of the Rabb family occupied the house from 1946 to 1968 and made the changes to the house ca. 1951. These included the rear kitchen/bath addition, widening of the west parlor entry, addition of closets and bookcases, changing of windows to doors in the first-floor parlors, covering the mantel in the upstairs bedroom, plastering of walls, and the addition of the stone patio at the rear of the house. Mrs. Hensley noted that prior to the kitchen addition there was a breezeway from the house to a separate kitchen outbuilding which is no longer extant. The farm was called "The Mile Away Farm" due to its approximate one-mile distance from U.S. Highway 70. Interview with Sybil Argintar February 28, 2011.

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The original doorway into the east parlor, with molded casing and what appears to be a covered transom, still exists to the south of the stairs, but a closet has been built behind this, which projects into the east parlor. The mantel is intact in this room and is cherry with a flat curvilinear motif with flanking, capped pilasters, and visible hand-planing marks. The fireplace opening has been covered. As noted above, one window on the north wall has been replaced with a door and the original nine-over-nine sash has been replaced with a six-over-six sash on the south wall. The added closet projects into the southwest corner of the room, and is covered with a gridded wood framework on the plaster walls to create shallow shelving.

Changes to the west parlor include the addition of bookcases on either side of the mantel ca. 1951, the replacement of one window on the north wall with a door and the replacement of the original nine-over-nine sash with a six-over-six sash on the south wall. The simple flat board mantel remains in this room, but is closely surrounded by the added bookcases.

The second floor features wide flush-board walls, floors, and ceilings primarily. The hallway is intact, with the only change being the addition of two closets on the west wall. All of the walls and the ceiling in the east bedroom have been covered with beaverboard, as has the entire fireplace, and a closet has been added at the northeast corner. The west bedroom has had a large closet added on the west wall, but the original mantel with rounded shelf, plain front and pilasters is intact within this. Changes to this floor happened ca. 1951. The Greek Revival influences of the house include the wide baseboards, exterior doors with transoms and sidelights, and mantels with simple pilaster details.

The rear ell addition, completed ca. 1951, is made up of a bath, accessed from the north end of the entry hall, an L-shaped kitchen, also accessed from the hall, and an enclosed rear porch. The kitchen walls and ceiling are sheetrock, with a textured finish applied to the ceiling. Floors are linoleum sheeting. Shelving and cabinetry is located on the west wall and along the south wall of the east portion of the kitchen. The bath has beaver board covering all walls, a linoleum floor, plywood cabinets, and a built-in medicine chest. The interior of the enclosed porch has had more recent changes, including aluminum siding applied to the walls.

School House. Contributing Building. ca. 1860.

Located just off the northwest corner of the house, this two-story, front-gable brick building with a standing-seam metal roof, wide overhanging eaves and flush-board soffits, as on the main house, and pierced brick walls appears to have originally been built for use as a school house. It consists of one-room on the second floor and a root cellar beneath. The gable roof projects to the east in an extended overhang to provide shelter for the flush-board root cellar door at the

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southeast corner. This elevation is one bay wide. The entry to the classroom space on the second floor is located on the one-bay-wide north side of the building. The four-panel door into the classroom remains, but the stairs deteriorated and are no longer extant. Beneath this door the brick is pierced in a diamond pattern to allow for ventilation into the root cellar. The west elevation has the same piercing pattern under the remains of a brick chimney stack serving only the second story. The south elevation is one bay wide with brick piercing on the lower level and a boarded window opening on the second. The single room on the upper floor has plaster walls with no molding, a plain post and lintel mantel on the west wall, wood floors, and an exposed ceiling structure. While the date of construction is not fully documented, family history notes that the school was used by members of the Carson family and later by the Young family.²

Barn. Contributing Building. ca. 1860; ca. 1951 silo addition; porch addition after 1985.

This two-story side-gable barn with a full-width two-story porch faces southwest like the house, and is located across a shallow ravine and up a hill to the northeast of the house. The metal roof has exposed rafters and purlins and the walls are covered with unpainted weatherboard. The original animal stalls remain on the first floor with hay storage above. The south elevation on the second floor is two bays wide, each bay a door opening onto the porch. The east and west elevations are one bay wide on both floors, with a wider opening on the first floor for animal egress. The north elevation has one door opening, sheltered by a projecting shed roof, in the center on the first floor. There is a large concrete trough structure, approximately twenty feet long and six feet wide projecting to the north, which sits approximately seven feet below the elevation of the first floor, with concrete walls on all sides. Originally this was covered and was used as a silage bin, rather than an upright silo.³ The concrete construction dates it from ca. 1951, when other changes were made to the property. The shed-roof porch on the south elevation, supported by a mixture of planed wood and tree trunk posts, appears to have been added since 1985, since survey photos of the property from 1985 do not show a porch on the building. The first floor of the barn has a single aisle lined by animal stalls on either side, and

² Rabb, William. Interview with Sybil Argintar February 28, 2011. Mr. Rabb notes that the school house might have been built by Major Conley, another local resident, for his family and neighbors. Mr. Rabb also remembers seeing math problems and scribbling on the walls. None of this is visible now and appears to have been painted over.

³ Ibid.

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the second story is an open hay loft. The most notable features of the barn are the massive hand-hewn posts and beams visible throughout the first floor and the wide flush-board floors and ceiling. There are some round-log rafters as well. The owner plans to renovate the barn into a community gathering place for special events and will retain all of the historic architectural features of the building.

Integrity Statement

While there have been some architectural changes to the house and outbuildings, the planned rehabilitation of the property will be closely coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office and will reverse some of the later changes to the house. Overall the house and outbuildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity and the house is a rare surviving example of a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival-influenced I-house in this part of McDowell County, with a small collection of accompanying outbuildings.

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Summary

The Carson-Young House was built by John Carson, grandson of Colonel John Carson (1752-1841), one of the earliest settlers in McDowell County. The property, with a period of significance of ca. 1860, meets National Register Criterion C as an intact collection of a rare, mid-nineteenth-century Greek-Revival-influenced I-house, barn, and brick school house. The house displays a pedimented porch and entries with sidelights and transom indicative of the Greek Revival style, as well as hand-carved Greek Revival-influenced mantels and tall baseboards on its interior. The barn is a substantial building with a first-floor single aisle plan lined by animal stalls on either side, and hand-hewn heavy timber post and beam construction, and the school house is a rare example in the county of a two-story brick outbuilding.

Historical Background

McDowell County is located in a topographically transitional area between the mountains to the west and the piedmont counties to the east. British exploration of the county began as early as the 1730s to 1740s, with the area that became Old Fort being one of the westernmost frontier regions for North Carolina's white colonial settlers until the time of the American Revolution. Over time, German and Scots-Irish colonists settled in the region, most of whom came directly from Pennsylvania, or moved further west from the interior settlements of the Yadkin River valley. Early architecture consisted primarily of log buildings.⁴ Over the next one hundred years, more settlers began arriving from eastern North Carolina as word spread about the lush landscape and abundance of water from the Catawba River. One of these was Samuel Davidson, who owned the land which later was used, in 1776, to establish a fortified house or fortified stockade known as Davidson's Fort, the origin of the town's modern name.⁵ Other prominent early settlers in the county, arriving after Davidson, included members of the Carson, McDowell, Rutherford, and Greenlee families. These families were slave-owners who, as their wealth increased, built more substantial homes in Old Fort and Marion, the county seat.⁶ Marion was established in 1843, on land donated by Colonel John L. Carson.⁷ Colonel Carson owned thousands of acres within McDowell County, much of which was located just to the west of Marion, in an area just outside the town limits known as Pleasant Gardens.⁸

⁴ McDowell County survey files. North Carolina Department of Archives & History, Western Office, Asheville, North Carolina.

⁵ <http://www.oldfort.org/full%20history.htm>. Accessed March 15, 2010; and Fossett, Mildred B. History of McDowell County. McDowell County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee. Durham, North Carolina: Seeman Printery, 1976, p. 49.

⁶ McDowell County survey files.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ The name Pleasant Gardens was used for the settled area around the Colonel John L. Carson House and is still in use today.

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The Carson family was one of the earliest to settle in McDowell County. Colonel John Carson, the grandfather of the builder of the nominated property, built his home in 1793 (Carson House (Marion vicinity), NR 9/15/1970), the first of the three extant Carson houses in the area. The first section of Colonel Carson's house consisted of a single-pen, one-story log cabin, with a second one-story cabin and connecting dogtrot added later. Many changes and additions were made through the mid-to-late nineteenth century, until it reached its present two-story-plus-attic form with a full-length, two-story front porch. Many Greek Revival-style details remain on the interior.⁹ Colonel Carson's son, William Moffitt Carson (1801-1863) and his first wife Almyra Wilson (1810-1844) also owned property in the Pleasant Gardens area. The William Carson House, located northeast of the Colonel John Carson House, is a two-story Flemish-bond brick building, with a front entry lined with boxwoods as at his father's and later his son's house.¹⁰ William and Almyra Carson were the parents of John Carson, builder of the nominated property. A few years before his death, in 1860, William Moffitt Carson gift deeded his property to his eldest son John Carson (1830-1900), who, according to the 1850 census, was living on his father's property.¹¹ These lands, as noted in the deed, included the land which he had previously inherited from his father, Colonel John Carson, in 1842.¹² They included lands along Buck Creek, Clear Creek, Osborn's Creek, Nick's Creek and the Catawba River, a portion of which is included as the nominated property.¹³

The 1860 United States Federal Census records note that John Carson was no longer living on his father's property, but apparently had his own house, the nominated property, where he lived with his younger brother, William, and an elderly female, Rebeca Mcentire, age 70. His

⁹ Bishir, Catherine. Bishir, Catherine W., Michael A. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999, p. 166.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 167.

¹¹ Ancestry.com online database. 1850 United States Federal Census, Marion, McDowell, North Carolina: roll M432-636, page 271A, image 176.

¹² Deed of Gift, copy in Carson family files, Carson House Genealogical Library, Marion, North Carolina.

¹³ May 6, 1842 deed from Jonathan Logan Carson and George M. Carson to their brother William M. Carson. This deeded a portion of the land they inherited from their father, Colonel John Carson, to William. According to the Carson family records located in the genealogical library at the Carson House, this estate included 68 negroes, 17 mules, 15 horses, 205 cattle, 450 hogs, 200 gallons of whiskey, 8614 pounds of bacon, 2644 pounds of soap, 4 wagons, 20 plows, 645 pounds of sand, 387 pounds of soap grease, 2393 pounds of iron, 118 pounds of cast boxes for wagons, 2 sets of harnesses, and 17 hoes, making for an extensive farming operation. McDowell County Deed Book 1, p. 102.

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occupation was listed as “farmer”.¹⁴ John Carson enlisted in the Confederate Army on May 16, 1861, beginning his service as a third lieutenant, growing in rank to a second lieutenant on July 11, 1862, and to a full first lieutenant by January 21, 1863, serving as an officer in Company D, North Carolina Sixth Infantry Regiment. He resigned from the army on March 10, 1864 and returned to Marion, McDowell County.¹⁵ On June 7, 1864, John Carson served as executor of his father’s will, which included the remainder of the estate that he had not previously gifted to him. This estate included his father’s brick house, which was sold at auction, additional land on Buck Creek of over 1200 acres, a grist mill, a saw mill, and fruit trees.¹⁶ While there is no intact marriage record for John Carson, it appears he married soon after his return to Marion to Harrietta J. Burgin (1845-1900). Their first child, John R. Carson, was born in 1867.¹⁷ The 1870 census notes that John and Harrietta Carson were living on the nominated property with their first three children, John R., Rebecca W., and George M., along with several black servants: Louisa Erwin, the cook; Lewis Carson, the gardener; Jennie Carson, a domestic servant; and Elmira Carson, a nurse. Also noted as living on the property, likely as full- and part-time boarders, were John H. Davidson, a clerk on the railroad; Jessy McCarter, an overseer on the railroad; and several railroad hands: Samuel Lookado; William H. Watkins; and George Bradley. Black railroad hands living on the property were George Hamilton; J. Carpenter; Alex Calwell; Jason Mitchell; Thomas Patton; Washington Calwell; and Lewis Gaither.¹⁸ The real estate value of their land was \$2,300 and the personal value of their property was noted as \$5,000.¹⁹ John Carson was at this time listed as a railroad contractor, but also likely kept up the farming operation on the property. He was actively involved in the construction of the Western North Carolina Railroad from Old Fort up the mountain to Swannanoa and Asheville, including the building of several of the tunnels.²⁰ The John Carson family continued to grow, which likely led to the sale of the house and 650 acres in 1877 to Thomas B. Young.²¹

¹⁴ Ancestry.com online database. 1860 United States Federal Census, Marion, McDowell, North Carolina: roll M653-904, page 223, image 445. This is a likely indicator that the house was built ca. 1860. John Carson enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861.

¹⁵ Military records, Civil War. Located in the American Civil War Soldiers online database. Provo, Utah, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 1999.

¹⁶ Letter in Carson family files, Carson House Genealogical Library, Marion, North Carolina.

¹⁷ Buck, Porge. Descendent of John Carson. Interview with Sybil H. Argintar, May 7, 2010.

¹⁸ 1870 Federal Census records.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ McDowell County Deed Book 9, p. 300. The 1880 census noted the couple had five children, and Carson was again listed as a farmer; the family also had three black servants living on the property: Martha Greenlee; William Moore, and Lillie Corpening. Ancestry.com online database. 1880 United States Federal Census, Marion,, McDowell, North Carolina: roll 970, page 367B, image 0736.

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Thomas B. Young (1833-1909) continued utilizing the house and property as an active farming operation.²² It is likely that some ornamental changes were made to the second-story porch, including the addition of the turned balusters and scrollwork brackets, during the ownership of the Young family. According to the 1880 census, Thomas B. Young, a farmer, and wife Mary M. Young (1848-1887) lived on the property with their two children, Ida J. and Eddie J., along with Katie Carson, a mulatto domestic servant, and Peter Banks, a black farm laborer.²³ Records also show that Young was a charter member of the Mystic Tie Lodge #273 in Marion, the local Masonic lodge.²⁴

In 1900, Thomas Young was widowed and lived on the property with his daughter, Ida J. Page, her husband, John Z. Page, and his two granddaughters.²⁵ When Thomas B. Young died in 1909, he willed the property to his two granddaughters, Mollie Page and Mildred Page.²⁶ The granddaughters (Mollie Page Adkins and Mildred Page Ervin) retained the property until November 5, 1925, at which time they sold it to Hugh LaBarbe, of Buncombe County.²⁷ LaBarbe sold the property to J. G. White and R. S. White in December 1926, but bought the property, 420 acres by this time, back in a foreclosure on December 14, 1927 for \$12,000.²⁸ LaBarbe owned the property until 1937, at which time he sold it to James Clyde Rabb (1891-1979).²⁹ Rabb, born in Caldwell County, married Iris Patton, of Burke County, and moved to North Cove, McDowell County, in 1914. They moved to Marion in 1916 and opened the Rabb Grocery Company, which continued in operation until 1949, several years after they bought the Carson-Young House. In addition to the store, the Rabb family continued farming operations at the house, raising Hereford beef cattle, alfalfa, soybeans, corn and other crops. Mr. Rabb also ran a sawmill which was located up the hill and to the rear of the house. The Rabbs had eight children, Clarence, Mary, Roy, Iris, Ruth, Guy, Bill, and Kenneth.³⁰ James Clyde Rabb was also a State representative from McDowell County for three terms, a member of First United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis, the Grange, the Mystic Tie Masonic Lodge, and served as the

²² It is unknown what Young grew as part of the farming operation.

²³ 1880 Federal Census records.

²⁴ Johnston, Joanne S., editor. McDowell County North Carolina Heritage, Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1992, p. 45.

²⁵ 1900 Federal Census records.

²⁶ McDowell County Record of Wills, Book 3, p. 87.

²⁷ McDowell County Deed Book 69, p. 97.

²⁸ McDowell County Deed Books 68, p. 476 and 71, p. 7.

²⁹ McDowell County Deed Book 83, p. 161.

³⁰ Johnston, Joanne S., editor. McDowell County North Carolina Heritage, Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1992, p. 276.

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business manager for the Marion Marauders, a local baseball team, in the 1950s.³¹ Most of the changes that have been made to the property occurred during the time the Rabbs lived in the house.

In 1979, after James Clyde Rabbs' death, the property was divided among the heirs, and on January 4, 2005, Clyde Guy Rabb, son of James Clyde Rabb, sold the portion of the property containing the house and school house to the current owner Alex Gros-Piron, his grandson.³² The adjacent parcel of land containing the barn was deeded to Sandi Rabb, daughter-in-law of Clyde Guy Rabb. The property continued to operate as an active farm under their ownership to the present day.

Architectural Context

The Carson-Young House is a rare example of a Greek Revival-influenced I-house with associated outbuildings located in McDowell County dating from ca. 1860. The I-house form, throughout the nineteenth century, was commonly built in rural parts of the county, changing little in its form but adding refinements in the latter part of the century through architectural elements such as turned porch posts and balusters, scrollwork, and more intricate interior woodworking. Mid-nineteenth-century I-houses were plain in their detailing and interior walls and ceilings were often plain, wide flush boards. In contrast, late nineteenth-century I-houses often included deeper gable-end eaves, steeper roof pitch, and additional ornamentation on porches in the form of scrollwork and turned balusters, with interior finishes including bead-board walls and ceilings and often more Queen Anne-style mantelpieces. This house, built ca. 1860, is an example of a transitional I-house form bridging the mid-to-late nineteenth-century time period.

The Carson-Young House, typical of the I-house with its side-gable-roof, two-story, one-room-deep, center-hall-plan form, is more closely related to the I-houses from the first half of the nineteenth century, being generally more plain in its architectural features, including wide flush-board walls, hand-hewn structural framing, and simple, hand-hewn mantels. Its single-shoulder chimneys on either end, nine-over-nine sash windows, entries with sidelights and transoms, mantels with simple pilaster details, and central, two-story pedimented porch are influenced by the Greek Revival style, an early to mid-nineteenth-century style. However, the Carson-Young House does have a steeper gable pitch, wide overhanging eaves, and chamfered porch and newel posts more common to later in the century. The embellishing, decorative elements, namely the

³¹ Ibid.

³² McDowell County map book 4, p. 69 and Deed Book 808, p. 145.

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porch scrollwork and turned balusters, were added in the late nineteenth century by the second owners.

While the I-house was a commonly built form throughout western North Carolina in the nineteenth century, there are very few intact examples in the Pleasant Gardens area of McDowell County. The brick William Carson House, likely built in the early 1800s by the father of Captain John Carson, is also an I-house with many Greek Revival details similar to the Carson-Young House. While not fully documented, it is possible that some of the same builders, likely slave labor, that built the William Carson House also built the Carson-Young House. Similarities between the two include the two-story porch with chamfered posts, four-panel doors, the nine-over-nine sash, pilastered mantels, and the same type of rectangular stair baluster with chamfered newel posts. The front entry lined with boxwoods is also a distinctive similarity, although this was a common landscape feature of the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

There are only two other known extant, architecturally intact, I-houses in McDowell County that have some similarities to the Carson-Young House, although with different dates of construction. One is the George Gardin House (ca. 1835; one-half mile from SR1796) and the second is the A. Billy McCall House (ca. 1886; on the east side of SR1569 0.2 miles south of the junction of SR 1569 and US Highway 221). The George Gardin House is a plain three-bay I-house with six-over-six sash, a one-story shed-roof central porch with square posts and no railing, simple pilastered mantels, and four-panel interior doors. The A. Billy McCall House is more similar to the Carson-Young House in that it has a two-story pedimented porch, but the first story extends the full width of the three-bay house. Detailing on the house is more fully classical than the Carson-Young House, with architrave trim and dentil moldings on doors and windows. Eaves and side raking are decorated with a dentilled cornice. Inside, the mantels are plainer, with bracketed shelves, but the stair balusters are slat-like.³³

In addition to the main house, the barn and school house are rare examples in the county of these types of outbuildings for the time period. In particular, the brick school house is not seen associated with any other property from the time period and may be the only existing mid-nineteenth-century school house in the area. Its interior is finished with plastered walls, a simple post and lintel mantel, wood floors, and an exposed roof structure. It is unusual not only

³³ McDowell County survey files.

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architecturally, but for its historic context as a private family school. The hand-hewn posts and beams of the single-aisle barn at the Carson-Young House help date it to ca. 1860; it appears to be the only barn in the area dating from this time period. The George Gardin House has three outbuildings, but they all date from the 1950s, making the Carson-Young House the only extant mid-nineteenth-century house and outbuilding collection in the county.

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North Carolina Department of Archives & History. Western Office. Asheville, North
Carolina. McDowell County survey files.

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Additional UTM's:

5. 17 404750 3951640

6. 17 404550 3951720

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for this nomination is indicated on the accompanying tax/sketch map, at a scale of 1" = 200', by a dark line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes a portion of the original 650 acres historically associated with the property and provides an appropriate setting for the Carson-Young House and outbuildings.

Additional Property Owner:

Mrs. Sandi Rabb

594 Major Conley Road

Marion, North Carolina 28752

Daytime telephone: (828) 724-4205 or (828) 442-4601

e-mail: sandieaglesrest@yahoo.com

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Carson-Young House Photos

The following information applies to all photographs, except where noted.

Name of property: Carson-Young House
 Marion vic.
 McDowell County
 North Carolina
Photographer: Sybil H. Argintar
Date of photos: April 2010

1. Front of house, view NE
2. Northwest elevation, view SE
3. Rear elevation, view SE
4. Southeast elevation, view NW
5. First floor hallway, view NE
6. Mantel in east parlor
7. Stair banister
8. Second floor hall, view SW
9. School house, view W
10. Southeast elevation of barn, view NW